

Neighbors,

It's been a busy winter! Here are a few of the things I'm working on:

### **Public Safety**

I'm very encouraged by our new North District Captain, Cam McLay. Captain McLay has been doing a great job communicating with neighborhoods about incidents, and he and I are working on an educational program for neighborhoods about safety and policing. We also have our own North District Community Policing Team, which I think will do a lot to improve neighborhood safety.

I've also been working recently with the folks at East High School to improve safety and lessen some of the impact on the neighborhoods. I've been very encouraged by these discussions, and I hope to continue them.

### **Water**

By the time you read this, we should have a new general manager at the Water Utility. I sincerely hope that whoever we hire will, first and foremost, reform the way the Utility communicates with the public. We need more and better information, and we need to know that our concerns and complaints are being taken seriously. Beyond that, we obviously still need to address the wells that have high manganese levels, and we need to look at how we site new wells, especially how we involve the public in that process. Proposals on both of these fronts are working their way through the system.

### **Snow**

What a winter it's been! I and other Eastside alders are working with City staff to figure out better ways to address snow removal, parked cars, and the impact that snow emergencies have on all our lives. We've already moved some proposals forward – three downtown parks lots (including Burr Jones) are available for off-street parking during snow emergencies, for example. Expect to see a few more changes in 2008.

### **Green Building**

I'm delighted that the Common Council recently adopted a resolution I sponsored requiring any new or substantially renovated City-owned buildings to be certified as a green building at the silver level under the LEED<sup>®</sup> (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standard.

Building green is the right thing to do, for many reasons. It will save the City money by ensuring that any new City buildings are built to be as energy- and water-efficient as possible. LEED<sup>®</sup> certified buildings use on average 30% less energy than average buildings. In addition to energy, LEED<sup>®</sup> buildings reduce average water use by 40%, waste by 65% and harmful greenhouse gas emissions by 30%. Green buildings are healthier for those working in them, as well. The City will benefit from improved employee attraction and retention, not to mention reduced health care costs and the increased morale that comes from working in a cleaner environment. I agree with Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, who said, "The City needs to lead by example. We can't

realistically expect others to embrace energy efficiency unless we step up to the plate and embrace it ourselves.”

This is only a partial list, of course. My day-to-day work as an alder is filled with all sorts of interesting things. And I’m sure there are other things on your list. As always, your concerns and ideas are of great interest to me. I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood.

Stay warm and be well,  
Satya